

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 AID-05
FEA-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 DHA-02 OES-06 SSM-03 /111 W
-----081025Z 069747 /17

R 080807Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4340
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS ALGERIA
USINT BAGHDAD IRAQ
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON
AMEMBASSY CAIRO EGYPT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS SYRIA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM SUDAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON UK
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO SOMALIA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT MAURITANIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT MOROCCO
AMEMBASSY SANA YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV ISRAEL
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI LIBYA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS TUNISIA

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E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS : PFOR, ETRD, BA
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SUBJECT : ARAB BOYCOTT: REPRESENTATIONS TO MINISTERS OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE/NATIONAL ECONOMY

REF : STATE 043693 AND 043697; MANAMA 492.

1. AMBASSADOR HAS NOW PRESENTED COPIES OF SECRETARY'S
FEB. 28 TESTIMONY REGARDING BOYCOTT TO FOREIGN MINISTER

(MANAMA REFTEL) AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY (MARCH 5). BOTH RECEIVED TEXTS AND TALKING POINTS IN USUAL BAHRAINI STYLE: RELAXED AND REASONABLE.

2. MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO MANAGES GOB RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE THROUGH ASST. UNDERSECRETARY AND DIRECTOR-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN HIS MINISTRY, WAS WELL BRIEFED ON POSITIVE CERTIFICATION QUESTION. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (MANAMA 267 AND RELATED), GOB HAS MOVED TO POSITION OF FULLY ACCEPTING POSITIVE CERTIFICATIONS. INTERESTINGLY, MINISTER TOLD US THAT GOB MOVED AT BEHEST OF BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY (BAPCO) WHICH ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT POSITIVE CERTIFICATIONS OF ORIGIN FOR BOTH IMPORTS TO AND EXPORTS FROM BAHRAIN.

3. MINISTER ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF PENDING LEGISLATION, CAREFULLY NOTING OUR DESCRIPTION OF STEVENSON, BINGHAM/ROSENTHAL BILLS AND ASKING WHEN FINAL LEGISLATION MIGHT BE EXPECTED. WE TOLD HIM IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS AND MADE POINT THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT FINAL LEGISLATION DOES NOT GO BEYOND "GUIDELINES" ENUMERATED IN SECRETARY'S FEB. 28 TESTIMONY. MINISTER SAID HE WOULD STUDY TESTIMONY AND BE BACK TO US IF THERE WERE FURTHER QUESTIONS. FYI. EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED FROM LEGAL ADVISOR TO GOB WRITTEN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING BOYCOTT AS WELL AS INFORMATION ABOUT PENDING LEGISLATION. WE PLAN TO KEEP ADVISOR SUPPLIED WITH CURRENT REGULATIONS AND INFORMALLY BRIEFED ON THESE MATTERS. END FYI.

4. MINISTER WAS SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE BOYCOTT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE OF SERIOUS DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY IN THE U.S. AND SEVERAL TIMES VOICED THE HOPE THAT US-ARAB COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF PENDING LEGISLATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE REITERATED VIEW THAT ARABS ARE "IN STATE OF WAR" WITH ISRAEL AND THAT THEY SAW THE BOYCOTT AS AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON TO DAMAGE ISRAEL. HE MADE FURTHER POINT THAT HE HOPED IT WAS BECOMING CLEAR TO AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS THAT BOYCOTT WAS NOT BASED ON RACIAL/RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION OR BIAS. THIS LATTER POINT LED TO DISCUSSION OF CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL'S INCLUSION ON BOYCOTT LIST (SEE MANAMA 517). MINISTER SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT VERY MUCH IN ARAB INTEREST "TO LEAN OVER BACKWARD" ON RACIAL/RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION ISSUES, SINCE IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DAMAGING TO ARAB SIDE TO BE SEEN AS BEING ANTI-JEWISH AS DISTINCT FROM ANTI-ZIONIST. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF STATE OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BAHRAIN. MINISTER MADE POINT THAT JEWISH BAHRAINIS ARE PROMINENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN COMMERCIAL LIFE OF THE STATE AND THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME OF THE BAHRAINI JEWS WHO HAD EMIGRATED HAD PETITIONED THE AMIR FOR

PERMISSION TO RETURN TO BAHRAIN.

5. AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION, MINSTER CONFIRMED HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN BEING KEPT INFORMED OF BOYCOTT-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S. AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR TIMELY SUPPLY OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770383/aaaacutp.tel
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Litigation History:
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